

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 23-26, 29-32, 34, 36-38, 40-44, and 47-50 are allowed.

Reason(s) for Allowance

2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reason(s) for allowance: Upon review of prior art of record, no process for detection of explosives or controlled substance at least comprising irradiating an object with neutrons having an intensity of 10^7 neutrons/second or less, analyzing the gammas emitted by the object, determining the presence or absence of said explosives or controlled substances by comparison of the relative percentages of elements in the object with known explosives and controlled substances, and again pulsing the object with neutrons, if it is determined that at least one of an explosive or controlled substance is present in the object, to more accurately identify the location of said explosive or controlled substance, exists in the nuclear art.

This statement is not intended to necessarily state all the reasons for allowance or all the details of why the claims are allowed and has not been written to specifically or impliedly state that all the reasons for allowance are set forth (MPEP 1302.14).

Any comments considered necessary by the Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled, "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rick Palabrica whose telephone number is 571-272-6880. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00-4:30, Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Keith can be reached on 571-272-6878. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

August 25, 2008

/Rick Palabrica/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3663